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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DR. DANIEL E. THORNBURGH ADDRESSES NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING

CHARLESTON, IL--Dr. Daniel E. Thornburgh, Eastern Illinois University Director of University Relations, prompted members of the Pana Rotary Club Wednesday (May 11) to contact their state legislators about the plight of education in Illinois.

The campaign to encourage local leaders to write or call their legislators asking for increased funding for education follows an announcement by Gov. James R. Thompson that his budget for next year provides no additional funding for elementary-secondary and higher education.

Thornburgh said Illinois colleges and universities, including Eastern, are suffering from a severe case of declining funds. The state reduced revenue for education last year and Thompson's proposed "level" funding plan for fiscal year 1989 will have a major impact on the quality of education at all levels, he added.

Inadequate state funding has created continuing problems for higher education, Thornburgh stressed. At Eastern and other universities, faculty are leaving for jobs in other states, classes have been cut, class sizes have been increased and there has been a serious shortage of equipment for instructional purposes.

Statistically, Illinois ranks 42nd among the 50 states in per capita spending on higher education.

The situation can only be reversed if taxpayers let their legislators know how important it is to increase state funding for education, Thornburgh emphasized.